



HOOD CANAL WATERSHED STRATEGIC PLAN

January 21, 2009

1. Mission Statement

The Hood Canal Coordinating Council, working with partners, community groups and citizens, will advocate for and implement regionally and locally appropriate actions to protect and enhance Hood Canal's environmental and economic health.

2. Introduction

To implement the Mission, the Hood Canal Coordinating Council (HCCC) will develop and implement a Hood Canal Watershed Strategic Plan (Plan) for the Hood Canal and Eastern Strait of Juan de Fuca Watersheds within Jefferson, Mason, and Kitsap Counties. The HCCC Plan will describe the HCCC strategic objectives; organizational structure, decision-making process, operating principles, and work planning. Paramount for the HCCC will be to engage as a regional governance body representing and advocating for the Hood Canal watershed and action area. HCCC will be positioned to provide for a coordinated response amongst all Hood Canal interests in support and implementation of the HCCC mission.

3. Strategic Objectives

To address the development and implementation of regionally and locally appropriate actions that protect and enhance Hood Canal's environmental and economic health, the HCCC will target the following strategic objectives:

- A. The HCCC will create and support an integrated system and structure involving all interests of Hood Canal to coordinate and prioritize regional planning, implementation, and reporting.
- B. The HCCC is committed to improve and support the forum and processes necessary to protect intact ecosystem processes, structures, and functions that will sustain Hood Canal into the future.
- C. The HCCC is committed to improve and support the forum and processes necessary to restore ecosystem processes, structures, and functions that will sustain Hood Canal into the future.

- D. The HCCC is committed to improve and support the forum and processes necessary to reduce the sources of pollution in Hood Canal.

4. Organizational Structure

The HCCC organizational structure is described in the By-Laws effective in the year 2000 (see Appendix A). Article II of the By-Laws specifies the membership and Board of Directors. Article II further describes "Ex-Officio" members as appointed by the Board of Directors. Ex-Officio members are non-voting members of the Board. Current Ex-Officio members as per the By-Laws include, but are not limited to:

Federal Agencies:

- United States Navy
- United States Forest Service
- National Park Service
- Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service
- National Marine Fisheries Service
- United States Army Corps of Engineers

State Agencies:

- Department of Natural Resources
- Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Department of Ecology
- Puget Sound Partnership
- Department of Health
- Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development
- Parks and Recreation Commission
- Department of Transportation

Others:

- Hood Canal Action Area Representative to the Puget Sound Partnership's Ecosystem Coordination Board

The HCCC will create and maintain a "larger table" that is inclusive of all groups and individuals involved in the stewardship of the Hood Canal watershed. This "larger table" will be created by providing active forums for discussions on issues of relevance and importance to the health and stewardship of the watershed; by recognizing existing or authorizing new workgroups and committees to address specific issues and topics; and by ensuring that the general public has full access to HCCC membership and processes. Specific examples of these forums are Watershed Resource Inventory Area Planning Units for water quantity and quality and the Salmon Recovery Lead Entity for habitat.

5. Decision Making

The HCCC By-Laws (see Appendix A) document the decision making process used by the Council. Article III of the By-Laws provide the details of meetings, quorum requirements, voting procedures, establishment and authority of committees, and public involvement.

6. Operating Principles

The HCCC Board of Directors has developed principles to guide how they implement the *Hood Canal Watershed Strategic Plan*. The Board has determined that the role of the HCCC is to provide the forum and coordination for:

- gathering and dissemination of data and information specific to Hood Canal issues and conditions,
- regulatory programs discussion that can assist land use and public health authorities to develop common goals and concepts,
- development of a regional action agenda that is prioritized by HCCC,
- accountability for actions committed by HCCC and the various implementing groups,
- development of a comprehensive funding strategy directed to support Hood Canal watershed actions, and
- a policy liaison advocating on behalf of Hood Canal issues in forums (i.e., Puget Sound Partnership, State legislature, Congress).

Guiding operating principles for the HCCC Board of Directors and HCCC include:

Regional policy and local implementation: The jurisdictions in Hood Canal will work collaboratively through the HCCC to develop region-wide policy recommendations for Hood Canal and will each develop and document locally appropriate implementation actions for each policy through incentives, regulations, education or other mechanisms.

Clear measures of success: The HCCC staff will facilitate the development of measurable, science-based goals and benchmarks for the implementation of each policy. This will include collaboration with Tribal, state and county staff and other stakeholders as appropriate.

Science-based actions: The HCCC will use existing scientific information, support research, and help to develop recommended actions for each jurisdiction to implement science-based actions locally as appropriate.

Monitoring and accountability: The HCCC will serve a monitoring and communications role to help each jurisdiction understand whether the locally implemented actions are together achieving the desired goals and benchmarks. This will provide each jurisdiction with the ability to demonstrate accountability to state, local, federal and private funders and constituents.

Public and Stakeholder Involvement: To support and build individual ownership and participation in the protection and recovery of Hood Canal, the HCCC will develop mechanisms for input and involvement from constituencies throughout Hood Canal.

7. Work Planning

The HCCC will develop a work plan to implement this strategic plan, to be revised and adopted annually, that clearly articulates specific tasks and issues the HCCC will pursue given the resources, funding and staff available.